



Board-Adopted Legislative Priorities 2022

Metropolitan Board Priorities 2022

- Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for:
 - conservation & new local supply projects
 - research on water science
- Support actions to secure funding for the Regional Recycled Water Program and related projects
- Support tax exemptions and/or credits for water conservation and efficiency incentives
- Support measures to defray
 - the costs of planning, financing, constructing, and rehabilitating all types of water infrastructure
 - the costs for public water systems associated with COVID-19, and for direct financial relief to low-income households facing utility bill arrearages
 - the costs of monitoring and/or remediation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and ensure drinking water and wastewater facilities are not held liable for the clean-up of contamination
- Work to ensure progress on Delta conveyance and California EcoRestore
- Support actions and funding to facilitate non-mitigation habitat restoration projects that benefit endangered and threatened species



Building Regional Readiness & Resilience in the Face of Climate Change & Drought

Southern California's two main sources of imported water are currently in drought conditions. Metropolitan, its member agencies and Southern California have done an exceptional job in reducing water use and embracing the culture of conservation. Due to sound planning, smart investments and a strong conservation ethic, the region is prepared to meet current year demands for water. **But in the face of extreme weather, drought and climate change, this won't be enough.**

Together, we will chart a new route to reliability with an openness to new ideas, strengthened partnerships, and pursuit of new funding to make the necessary investments in conservation and local supplies to ensure regional drought readiness and to prepare for the impacts of climate change. And now is the time.



About Metropolitan

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative of 26 member agencies – cities and public water agencies – that serve 19 million people in six counties. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies and helps its members develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource management programs.

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Climate Change & the Environment

Metropolitan is working to adapt to the realities of climate change and supports policies and funding that encourage sustainable practices and environmental compliance, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate wildfire risk and improve energy sustainability.

Protecting Drinking Water Quality

Metropolitan supports policies to continue to provide high-quality reliable drinking water in an economically responsible way to Southern California that surpasses all federal and state drinking water regulations. Metropolitan supports additional funding to defray the costs of monitoring and remediation of PFAS. Additionally, Metropolitan supports application of the "polluter pays" principle to ensure that parties responsible for introducing contaminants in drinking water sources are held liable for cleanup, and not drinking water and wastewater facilities that subsequently store, transport or treat the water.



Regional Water Resource Development

Metropolitan, in partnership with its member agencies, promotes local resource development and water conservation measures to ensure water supply reliability and resiliency for Southern California's communities, families and businesses.

Recycled Water & Advancing Potable Reuse

Metropolitan's investments in local recycled water projects have produced more than 3 million acre-feet of recycled water for the region since 1982. Metropolitan, in partnership with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, operates the Advanced Purification Center demonstration facility. This facility is testing technology needed for a full-scale regional recycled water plant that, once built, would be capable of producing up to 150 million gallons daily, enough to serve 500,000 homes. Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions to initiate, expedite and secure funding for recycled water projects including the Regional Recycled Water Program.

Water Conservation

Metropolitan supports the establishment of programs and incentives to promote long-term water use efficiency. Metropolitan and its 26 member agencies' long-standing commitment to conservation has resulted in a nearly 35% reduction in per capita potable water use over the past 25 years. To further these gains, Metropolitan supports tax exemptions for water conservation or efficiency incentives including, turf removal, local stormwater capture (including rain barrels, cisterns), and other measures to reduce consumption of water or enhance the absorption and infiltration capacity of the landscape.

Imported Water Supply

Metropolitan provides imported water supplies to its member agencies from two primary sources, the Colorado River via the Colorado Aqueduct and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta via the State Water Project. Metropolitan maintains and makes significant investments in this system to safeguard the water supply that is a cornerstone of Southern California's \$1.6 trillion economy.

The Colorado River

The Colorado River is a critical resource for the entire Southwest – supporting the economies of seven basin states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Wyoming and Utah) and many diverse ecosystems. Degradation of the River's water quality can cause significant economic, environmental and human health impacts across the West. Metropolitan, together with the other Basin States, Native American tribes and Mexico, works to ensure we can continue to supply our communities with a safe and reliable water supply.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and State Water Project

Metropolitan is involved in several key regulatory and planning processes in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta related to the operation of the State Water Project. About 30 percent of Southern California's water comes from the SWP. Metropolitan works with state and federal agencies, as well as other SWP contractors, to find collaborative approaches to improve water supply reliability and restore ecosystems for the benefit of threatened and endangered species. Metropolitan supports the Newsom administration's call for a balanced portfolio of water actions that includes Delta conveyance and the Voluntary Agreements for the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan. In addition, strategies and funding are needed to mitigate the impacts of subsidence on the SWP and prevent future damage caused by unsustainable groundwater pumping.

System Resilience



COVID-19 Response

Metropolitan supports effective, timely disbursement of relief funding for public water systems to offset pandemic-related costs and direct financial relief to low-income households facing utility bill arrearages.



Cybersecurity

Metropolitan supports continued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency oversight of water system security in coordination with other federal and state agencies with expertise in security, including the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and Chemical Security Analysis Center.



Innovation and Water Science

Metropolitan supports innovation and research on water science, including snowpack and streamflow monitoring, drinking water quality, salinity control, source water protection and watershed research.



Workforce Development

Metropolitan supports improving partnerships and educational opportunities in the water sector, including career technical education and workforce development, as well as improvements in water system staff training and certification processes.